day 2 who's who

Say who someone is (and isn't), and talk about 'we' and 'they'.

Who's who is the first puzzle in any new city.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	how it's built
是	shì	am, is, are	"Sure (shì) it is!" 是 says who is who.
不	bù	not, no	"Boo!" No, not that!
他	tā	he, him	A person 亻 standing over there: him.
她	tā	she, her	Spot the 女 (woman) on the left: she.
它	tā	it	A roof 宀 with something curled underneath: what is it?
们	men	plural ending	People 亻 crowding through a door 门: a whole group!
我们	wǒmen	we, us	我 I, me + 们 plural ending
你们	nǐmen	you (plural)	你 you + 们 plural ending
他们	tāmen	they (men, mixed)	他 he + 们 plural ending
她们	tāmen	they (women)	她 she + 们 plural ending
它们	tāmen	they (animals, things)	它 it + 们 plural ending
人	rén	person, people	Two legs striding along: a person.

pattern 是 for am, is, are, and 不是 for not

who | (不) | 是 | who / what

是 links two nouns: 我是安娜 (I = Anna). Put 不 in front to say 'not': 不是. Add 们 to a person word for more than one: 我 → 我们 (we).

他是小明。 **Tā shì Xiǎomíng.** He's Xiaoming.

我不是美国人。 **Wǒ bú shì Měiguó rén.** I'm not American.

她们是英国人。 **Tāmen shì Yīngguó rén.** They're British. (all women)

它们不是美国人！ **Tāmen bú shì Měiguó rén!** They're not American! (the dogs)

dialogue anna meets dabai

xiaoming 安娜，你好！
Ānnà, nǐhǎo! · Hi, Anna!

anna 你们好！
Nǐmen hǎo! · Hi, you two! (Xiaoming has a big white dog with him)

xiaoming 它是大白。
Tā shì Dàbái. · This is Dabai.

anna 大白，你好！
Dàbái, nǐhǎo! · Hello, Dabai!

xiaoming 大白，她是安娜。她是美国人。
Dàbái, tā shì Ānnà. Tā shì Měiguó rén. · Dabai, this is Anna. She's American.

anna 不是，不是！我不是美国人，我是英国人。
Bú shì, bú shì! Wǒ bú shì Měiguó rén, wǒ shì Yīngguó rén. · No, no! I'm not American, I'm British.

xiaoming 对不起！大白，她是英国人！
Duìbuqǐ! Dàbái, tā shì Yīngguó rén! · Sorry! Dabai, she's British!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

们
men
plural
ending

人
rén
person,
people

是
shì
am, is, are

他
tā
he, him

good to know · 他 (he), 她 (she) and 它 (it) all sound exactly the same: tā. Only the writing tells them apart. 不 is usually bù, but before a 4th tone it becomes bú: 不是 is bú shì. The pages mark it for you.

You can say who you are and where you're from: the first thing everyone asks a new face in China. Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**